

HAVE WE TOO MANY ORGANIZATIONS?

Scarcely a day passes that we do not receive communications from one or more organizations or societies, outside of the Church, which have undertaken to do some kind of work for the uplift of the whole or a part of the human race.

At the present time especially there are a number of organizations that are dealing with peace problems in various ways. Some of these are attempting to awaken public sentiment in favor of peace, some are undertaking to show the governments of the world just how they are to direct their affairs in many ways, but especially in the plans to be adopted to bring about and maintain peace.

There are other organizations connected with neither the Church nor the government, which would attempt to handle great world problems. Among these are the relations that should exist between the nations of the earth. Just at present the relations between this country and Japan are receiving special attention, and China is coming in for its share.

The great subject of immigration is also claiming the attention of certain organizations, and along with this come questions involved in the training and education of the immigrant for naturalization and citizenship.

More numerous are those associations which are more local in their plans and work. They are national, State, or local as circumstances demand. They undertake to secure the passage and execution of laws that they deem beneficial to the citizens of the country or community. These include legislation in regard to temperance, marriage and divorce, vice in all forms, hygiene, schools, good roads, good government of every kind.

In addition to these there are associations that are engaged in benevolent work, such as rescue work, charity, care of orphans and the homeless, the sick and the dying, the maintaining of playgrounds for the children in the cities and fresh air camps in the country.

Then there are various religious organizations outside of the Church which are undertaking to do distinctly religious work. Some claim to be inter-denominational, and some are entirely separate from Church connection or control.

The number of these associations are innumerable and is rapidly increasing. In almost all cases the aim and object of the organization is commendable. The means and methods used to attain their ends are very varied. Some are admirably conducted and others are not.

One of the questions that often occurs to a thoughtful mind is whether there is need for so many organizations, with their attendant and necessary expenditure of labor and money. But the question may also be asked as to how else is the work to be done, which they have undertaken to do.

The only two organizations which God has established upon earth for the welfare of mankind are the Church and the Civil Government. Is any other needed?

In an ideal state of society we believe that no other organization looking after the welfare of mankind would be needed. The very fact that God established these two and arranged them so that they would not overlap in fulfilling their functions would seem to imply that they would do all that is necessary.

If it is the government's province to build roads or to care for criminals, why should it be necessary to have some other organization formed to persuade or compel the government to perform these duties?

It is the duty of the Church to look after the moral and the spiritual welfare of the

world. Why is it necessary to form some other organization to do this work or to exert its influence on the Church to make it do its own work? If the Church were using all its machinery and resources for the accomplishing of its God-given work, there would probably be very little need for any other organization.

The Church should primarily lay out its efforts on making character in its members and training them as to their duty to God and to their fellowmen. If this were done, there would be no difficulty in having all the work belonging to the Church done by the Church itself. And men thus trained and put into government offices would perform their duties faithfully.

A NOTABLE BOOK, "THE TASK THAT CHALLENGES."

In this day when the attention of the Church is so loudly called to Home Missions, the army of writers have followed the interest with a startling array of books on this subject. Among them there is no one that will live longer and create more genuine Home Mission interest than the book of Rev. S. L. Morris, D. D., entitled "The Task That Challenges." It comes with the imprimatur of our Committee of Publication; from the loyal heart and fertile brain of our secretary of the Assembly Home Mission.

The whole work is a gift of love from one who has given the ripest years of his life to the study of the countless problems, as they have come in practical experience. It is written with the care for which Dr. Morris is famous. The book is neither too long nor too short. The print is clear, the paper good and the whole appearance of the book pleasing. Best of all, the tone is spiritual, and the statements clear cut and logical.

A brief editorial cannot do justice to the excellencies of the book, but may so call attention to it, that the reader may be induced to secure and read it for himself.

There are twelve chapters in the book with an appendix, a Bibliography and best of all, an index.

In this day and time we may live very comfortably without an appendix, but to do without an index—the finger—is hard indeed.

The chapters begin with "The Magnitude of the Task." It is indeed great, whether we consider the number to be reached, or the hindrances in the way. Many parts of our country are gospel-hardened, making our work more difficult; many of our fields are worn-out, and weed infested, and, like our lands, require patient effort to "build up."

There is no glamour of the far-away. The bald, bare facts of the unpleasant present make Home Mission work often the most disheartening. Among the many chapters deserving special emphasis we note the chapter on "Evangelism, Pastoral and Personal."

Our Church needs an awakening on this subject. We are apt to sink down into mere satisfaction with the past, ministering to the churched and well-to-do classes and turn away from the vast unchurched and semi-antagonistic classes of our communities; or we go to these with a gospel that is nothing but social service, in lieu of the gospel of repentance.

The distinction between social service and the gospel is put in a very happy fashion. "Social service would reform the drunkard in order to convert him. Christianity would convert him in order to reform him. The one would cut down the weeds of wickedness, the other would eradicate the roots."

The true evangelism lays constant stress on the need of a change of heart, in order to

produce a change of life. Our Saviour emphasized that when he said, "Out of the heart are the issues of life."

The chapter on "The Black Man's Burden." If there is any need of awakening our Church on any subject it is on the subject of Negro salvation.

We have no uncertain sound on this subject. The whole religious history of the Negro is laid before us from the time he came into America to the present day. The difficulties and discouragements of the work are presented, but coupled with it the highest call to the uplift of this race.

The photographs represent the work of Stillman Institute and the Sam Daily Reformatory.

The Chapter on "The Country Church and Rural Life."

We need to be aroused on this subject. The facts marshaled here are startling. They are at once encouraging and arousing. The country church is coming into its own, and in many places excelling the city church, but in many places the work is sadly neglected.

The chapter on "The Hand of Woman" comes from the graceful pen of Mrs. Winnsborough, the Superintendent of our Woman's Work.

The book presents the Home Mission work of the Southern Presbyterian Church in a most graphic way, and will surely gladden the hearts of those who love our Zion.

The appendix has a questionnaire that will make the book very helpful for study classes.

Get it and when you start to read you will find yourself unable to put it down.

A. A. L.

Contributed

AN HISTORIC CHURCH AND OTHERS ON THE EASTERN SHORE.

(Continued.)

By Mrs. Mary M. North.

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In the Minutes of the Presbytery of Philadelphia from 1706 to 1717 we find on the first page of the book the name of Mr. Francis McKemie as moderator, and letters sent from the people of Snow Hill were read.

In these letters came a call for the Rev. John Hampton to be the pastor of the Snow Hill church, and so far as is known this was the first "call" ever given to a minister in this country.

In 1708 we read a paragraph of Presbyterial minutes to the effect that it be "Ordered by the Presbytery that there be a letter sent to the people of Snow Hill, requiring their faithfulness and care in collecting the tobacco promised by subscription to Mr. Hampton. Tobacco was current the same as coin in those days.

At this time Mr. McNish is preaching at Wicomico and Manokin.

In 1718 Rev. John Hampton was relieved of his pastorate at Snow Hill by the Presbytery, on account of poor health.

It is evident that before the regular pastorate of Mr. Hampton, Mr. Makemie had established Rev. Samuel Davis over Snow Hill, and perhaps other churches, certainly the one called the Ferry, which must have been the one at the place now called Beaver Dam, near Pocomoke.

In these same "Minutes" it is recorded that September 20, 1710, a call was presented